

## Message Text

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44

ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NASA-04 PM-07 L-03 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 NSF-04

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AF/C:JHDIGGS

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AF/RA:ANAVEZ

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R 282006Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, MP

SUBJ: US/GOM AGREEMENT APOLLO/PLAISANCE AIRFIELD

REF: PORT LOUIS 228, 0643; STATE 091756

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED USG/GOM AGREEMENT REGARDING  
PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR USAF AIRCRAFT AT PLAISANCE  
AIRFIELD IN CONNECTION WITH APOLLO PROJECT (TIAS 6576).

2. ALTHOUGH APOLLO LUNAR LANDING PROGRAM HAS BEEN BROUGHT  
TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, OTHER NASA SPACE MISSIONS COULD  
POSSIBLY NECESSITATE A REQUEST FOR USE OF GOM AIRSPACE OR  
GROUND FACILITIES BY USAF TELEMETRY AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN  
SUPPORT OF NASA.

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3. CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT

AGREEMENT BE AMENDED BY A NOTE WHICH WOULD SIMPLY PROVIDE THAT OTHER PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT BE EXTENDED INDEFINITELY. THIS SOLUTION NOT CONSIDERED ADEQUATE BECAUSE AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MODIFIED IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT PLACES AS WELL AS TO INCLUDE A NEW OBJECTIVE NOT RELATED TO THE APOLLO PROGRAM. FURTHER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IN COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS INSERTION OF OBJECTIVE AS BEING ASSISTANCE TO APOLLO PROJECT AND QUOTE OTHER NASA MISSIONS UNQUOTE WAS TURNED DOWN. THIS HISTORY MAY CAST DOUBT ON ACCEPTABILITY OF SIMILAR PHRASEOLOGY NOW, AND INDICATE NEGOTIATING DIFFI-

CULTIES IN PUTTING FORWARD SIMILAR LANGUAGE POSSIBLY LEADING TO THE RAISING OF QUID PRO QUO ISSUES.

4. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PLAISANCE AIRFIELD WILL BE PHASED OUT IN 1975 WHEN NEW AIRFIELD PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION BECOMES OPERATIONAL. AS AGREEMENT REFERS ONLY TO PLAISANCE AIRFIELD FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT AIRFIELD WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO US AT THAT TIME.

5. IN VIEW OF ALL FACTORS INVOLVED AND UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES ANY REASON WHY FUTURE USE OF PLAISANCE OR NEW AIRFIELD WOULD BE DENIED ON AN AD-HOC MISSION BY MISSION REQUEST BASIS, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT CHARGE INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER IN WRITING AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE EXCELLENCY, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AT PORT LOUIS, SEPT. 3, 1968, REGARDING THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT AT PLAISANCE AIRFIELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE APOLLO PROJECT.

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ACQUAINT YOUR GOVERNMENT FORMALLY WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE APOLLO LUNAR PROJECT AND TO PROPOSE THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED TERMINATED AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTE.

I ALSO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE UNITED STATES SPACE PROJECT APOLLO THROUGHOUT ITS DURATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO POINT OUT THAT THE USE OF MAURITIUS AIR SPACE AND GROUND FACILITIES FOR FUTURE PEACEFUL SPACE MISSIONS MAY BE REQUESTED BY MY GOVERNMENT ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. IT IS HOPED THAT THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESENT AGREEMENT MAY BE EXTENDED TO SUCH FUTURE REQUESTS.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIRMATION THAT THE AGREEMENT

MAY BE CONSIDERED TERMINATED AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTE.

UNQUOTE

6. YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT TO FORNOFF THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT IN THEIR REPLY FOR THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT TO AGREE NOW ON ACCEPTING FUTURE AD HOC REQUESTS BUT MERELY TO SAY THEY WOULD CONSIDER SUCH REQUESTS WHEN MADE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS IN A SYMPATHETIC WAY.

7. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS AND REACTIONS. KISSINGER

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